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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,947

10/05/2005

Tooru Yamakita

05670/LH

3610

1933 7590 06/11/2009
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EXAMINER

MISLEH, JUSTIN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,947	Applicant(s) YAMAKITA, TOORU	
	Examiner JUSTIN P. MISLEH	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 13, 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1 and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 3 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boles (US 2005/0103840 A1) in view of Lane et al. (US 7,333,001 B2) in further view of Hoshino et al. (US 2003/0095032 A1).

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Claim 11 is a method claim that tracks Claim 1, an apparatus claim. For the sake of brevity, Claim 11 will be rejected using the language of Claim 1.

5. For **Claims 1 and 11**, Boles discloses, as shown in figures 1 and 2 and as stated in paragraphs 34 – 37, 40, and 42, a digital camera (6, 1, 3, 2 and 11) comprising:

an image capture device (SEM 11) which captures an image of an article (stone 12 or valuable V) in response to a shutter operation (Boles discloses that the image capture device is a scanning electron microscope 11 that captures images; see paragraph 34. Any device that captures images inherently comprises captures those images in response to some shutter operation, including mechanical shutter means and/or electronic shutter means);

a display device (3) which displays the image of the article (stone 12 or valuable V) captured by the image capture device (see Boles, paragraph 34);

an electronic tag reader (6) which reads, using a wireless transmission (reader/writer 6 is connected to the tag 7 via inductive coupling; see Boles paragraph 35), electronic tag information from an electronic tag (7), which is attached to the article (see Boles paragraph 42), when the image capture device captures the image of the article (see Boles paragraph 42); and

a writing device (6) which determines, when the image of the article is captured by the image capture device (11), which causes the electronic tag reader to read electronic tag information and writes the image of the article captured by the image capture device into the electronic tag (See paragraphs 34 – 36. Boles states, “The resulting digitized images are output to an inductive writer 6 which is arranged to store the images in a memory 8 of a miniature RFID ... tag 7.”).

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However, Boles does not disclose wherein the writing device which determines whether or not writing information is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader, and which writes information into the electronic tag when it is determined that the writing of the image is permitted.

On the other hand, Lane et al. also disclose an apparatus for reading/writing from/to an electronic tag attached to an article. More specifically, Lane et al. show, in figure 1, a system comprising a computer (40), a database (12), an RFID tag (4), and an RFID reader (10). Lane et al. show, in figure 2, details of the RFID tag (4). Finally, in figures 3, 7, and 8, Lane et al. show granting reading/writing permission to the RFID reader (10) to read/write from/to the RFID tag (4). In this regard, Lane et al. specifically disclose, “The controller 4A may then access the security circuit 4F to authenticate the identity of the reader 10 and to determine if the reader 10 is authorized to request information from, or write information into, or otherwise direct the operation of the RFID tag 2” (see Lane et al., column 15, lines 40-44). Lane et al. reader (10) in combination with the controller (4A) satisfy the claimed “a writing device which determines whether or not writing [information] is permitted based on the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader, and which writes [information] into the electronic tag when it is determined that the writing of the image is permitted.” In other words, Lane et al. provide the advantage that data regarding an article that the electronic tag is attached to is accurate.

Thus, the Examiner submits at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included a decision unit which determines whether a writing of *data* is permitted, and wherein the writing device writes the *data* into the

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electronic tag when the decision unit determines that a writing of the *data* is permitted, as taught by Lane et al., in the image pickup apparatus disclosed by Boles.

However, Boles in view of Lane et al. still do not disclose wherein the image capture device, the display device, the electronic tag reader, the determining device, and the tag writer are incorporated in a camera housing of the digital camera.

On the other hand, Hoshino et al. also disclose an apparatus for electronic tag management. More specifically, Hoshino et al. show, in figures 1 and 3, a digital camera incorporating all of its components, including an electronic tag system within a single compact housing. The main advantage of the digital camera and tag management system of Hoshino et al. is portability (“regardless of place”; see paragraph 0008).

Therefore, the Examiner submits at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the contents of the digital camera of Boles into a single digital camera housing, as taught by Hoshino et al..

6. As for **Claim 3**, Lane et al. further teach, as shown in figures 7 and 8, a communication interface (20), wherein the writing device (10) transmit the electronic tag information read by the electronic tag reader to a server (22) via the communications interface (20) and writes [information] into the electronic tag if a write permission is received from the server (also see column 21, line 50 – column 22, line 5).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claim 10** is allowed.

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on 571.272.7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Justin P. Misleh/
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2622
June 11, 2009**